CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for shredding a block of material, the apparatus comprising:

a shredding unit having a plurality of blades on a rotatably driven drum, the drum rotating about a substantially vertical axis;

a drive unit that rotates the drum about the substantially vertical axis; and

a feed unit that moves the block of material on a feed plane toward the shredding unit in a feeding direction, the feeding direction being substantially perpendicular to the substantially vertical axis about which the drum rotates,

wherein the plurality of blades cut shreds of material from a front face of the block.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the feed unit comprises a mechanical arm that forces the block of material in the feed direction.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the feed unit comprises a bottom belt to support the bottom surface of the block of material, the bottom belt conveying the block of material in the feed direction.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of blades are substantially equally spaced apart on said drum.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the shredding unit includes an opening therein to allow the shreds of the material to pass therethrough.

6. An apparatus for shredding a block of material, the apparatus comprising:

a shredding unit having blades revolving about an axis;

a drive unit that moves the blades about the axis,

wherein the blades define a cutting perimeter; and

a feed unit that moves the block of material toward the cutting perimeter on a feed plane and in a feeding direction, the feed unit disposed upstream of the

shredding unit, the feeding direction being generally perpendicular to and rotated about 90° from the axis about which the blades move.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the blades cut shreds of material from a front face of the block, and wherein the shredding unit includes an opening therein to allow shreds of the material to pass therethrough.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the blades comprises a serrated edge having a plurality of teeth.

9. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the shredding unit comprises a rotatably driven drum, and wherein the blades are substantially equally spaced apart on said rotatably driven drum.

10. An apparatus for shredding a block of material, the apparatus comprising:

a shredding unit having a plurality of blades revolving about an axis;

a drive unit that rotates the plurality of blades about the axis; and

a feed unit that moves the block of material toward the shredding unit on a feed plane and in a feeding direction, the feeding direction being generally perpendicular to and rotated about 90° from the axis about which the plurality of blades rotate,

wherein the plurality of blades cut shreds of material from the front face of the block.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said shredding unit comprises a rotatably driven drum, and wherein the plurality of blades are arranged on the rotatably driven drum.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the shredding unit includes an opening therein for allowing shredded material to pass therethrough.

13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the feed unit further comprises an arm.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the arm comprises a mechanical arm.

15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the arm comprises a hydraulic arm.

16. An apparatus for shredding a material, the apparatus comprising:

a cutting unit,

wherein the cutting unit slices the material into ribbons;

a shredding unit having a plurality of blades on a rotatably driven drum, the drum rotating about a substantially vertical axis;

a drive unit that rotates the drum about the substantially vertical axis; and

a feed unit that moves the material toward the shredding unit on a feed plane and in a feeding direction, the feeding direction being generally perpendicular to the substantially vertical axis.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the feed unit comprises a mechanical device.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the shredding unit includes an opening therein for allowing shredded material to pass therethrough.

19. An apparatus for shredding a block of material, the apparatus comprising:

a shredding unit having a plurality of blades on a rotatably driven drum, the drum rotating about a substantially vertical axis;

a drive unit that rotates the drum about the substantially vertical axis; and

a feed unit comprising a hydraulic mechanism that moves the block of material on a feed plane toward the shredding unit in a feeding direction,

wherein the feeding direction is substantially perpendicular to the substantially vertical axis about which the drum rotates, and

wherein the blades cut shreds of material from a front face of the block.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the shredding unit includes an opening therein for allowing shredded material to pass therethrough.

21. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the plurality of blades are substantially equally spaced apart on said drum.

22. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the block of material comprises a solid block of cheese.

23. An apparatus for shredding a material comprising:

a shredding unit having a plurality of blades on a rotatably driven drum, the drum rotating about a substantially vertical axis;

a drive unit that rotates the drum about the substantially vertical axis; and

a feed unit comprising a mechanical device that moves the material on a feed plane toward the shredding unit in a feeding direction, the feeding direction being generally perpendicular to and rotated about 90° from the substantially vertical axis.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the mechanical device comprises a mechanical arm.

25. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the mechanical device comprises a hydraulic arm.

26. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the mechanical device comprises a conveyor belt.

27. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the mechanical device comprises a series of rollers.

28. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the material comprises a solid block of cheese.